BAKER & MILLER PLLC

EI-18647 KB

ATTORNEYS and COUNSELLORS
2401 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

TELEPHONE (202) 663-7820 FACSIMILE (202) 663-7849

Keith G. O'Brien

(202) 663-7652 (Direct Dial) E-Mail kobrien@bakerandmiller.com

July 13, 2011

BY HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Victoria Rutson Director, Office of Environmental Analysis Surface Transportation Board 395 E Street, SW Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Stewartstown Railroad Company - Adverse Abandonment - In York County, PA,

STB Docket No. AB-1071

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am writing on behalf of the Estate of George M. Hart (the "Estate" – also the applicant in the above-referenced adverse abandonment proceeding) in response to the comments of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Bureau for Historic Preservation ("PABHP") addressing the potential historic impacts of the proposed rail line abandonment and historic mitigation. In its letter dated May 23, 2011, PABHP's expresses particular interest in the subject rail line's buildings, bridges, and right-of-way. PABHP is concerned about the possibility that the proposed abandonment might result in "demolition of buildings [and] bridges [,] and the break-up of rights of way."

Evidently, the rail line owned by Stewartstown Railroad Company ("SRC") is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places ("NRHP"). The Estate was already aware, and has acknowledged in its Historic Report that certain of SRC's buildings and structures (such as bridges) are either eligible for inclusion on the NRHP, or are already listed on the NRHP.. In light of PABHP's written comments, however, we wish to reaffirm that, in the event abandonment is granted in this proceeding, the Estate does not intend to demolish buildings or bridges along the SRC rail line. In fact, in view of PABHP's interest in the rail line as a historic resource and for other reasons, the Estate would favor an outcome that would result in the preservation of the SRC line's right-of-way, such as interim trail use.

We believe that it is important to note that PABHP's letter does not object to the recovery of rail and associated track materials in the event that abandonment is granted. We trust that OEA would not recommend a condition against recovery of salvageable track and track material,

BAKER & MILLER PLLC

Ms. Victoria Rutson July 13, 2011 Page 2

as such a condition barring recovery of such track assets would raise Constitutional issues and would be contrary to longstanding agency policy.

If you have any questions concerning the Estate's consolidated Environmental & Historic Report or this response to PABHP's written comments, please do not hesitate to call me.

Keith G. O'Brien

Attorney for the Estate of George M. Hart

cc: PABHP